

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first two years of life; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the United States has an autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, there are many different symptoms shown by people suffering from autism: delayed or deficient communications, decreased or unresponsive social interaction, unusual reactions to normal stimuli, a lack of spontaneous or imaginative play, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure, although with aggressive and constant therapy, some individuals can develop sufficient skills to become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, autism can have a devastating impact on the families of those individuals who are affected; and

WHEREAS, families, caregivers, advocates, and organizations are striving to bring about positive changes for those with autism; and

WHEREAS, through research, legislation, training, programs, support groups, advocacy and increased awareness, we will be empowered and ready to meet the challenges to serve the growing population of individuals with autism;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby declare April 2010 as

Autism Awareness Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 11th day of December, 2009

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

